



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6662**

January Session, 2005

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB06662APP \_\_\_\_\_ 051605 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE RELATING TO POPULATIONS IN STATE ELDERLY AND  
DISABLED HOUSING PROJECTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The state agencies charged with  
2       providing social services to the elderly and nonelderly disabled  
3       populations shall assist housing authorities in identifying and  
4       accessing social services offered by such agencies. The Department of  
5       Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Mental  
6       Retardation and the Department of Social Services shall each develop a  
7       plan that details outreach efforts, available services and crisis  
8       intervention. Not later than October 1, 2005, each such department  
9       shall report a summary of its collaboration efforts with housing  
10      authorities to the select committee of the General Assembly having  
11      cognizance of matters relating to housing, and the Legislative Program  
12      Review and Investigations Committee, in accordance with section 11-  
13      4a of the general statutes.

14      Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Annually, the Department of  
15      Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Housing  
16      Finance Authority shall jointly conduct a comprehensive assessment of  
17      current and future needs for rental assistance under section 8-119kk of  
18      the general statutes for housing projects for the state's elderly and

19 disabled. Not later than October 1, 2005, the results of the first such  
20 analysis shall be presented to the select committee of the General  
21 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing, in  
22 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

23       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Not later than July 1, 2006, the  
24 Department of Economic and Community Development shall develop  
25 and maintain a comprehensive inventory of all publicly assisted  
26 housing in the state. The inventory shall identify all existing assisted  
27 rental units by type and funding source, and include, but not be  
28 limited to, information on tenant eligibility, rents charged, available  
29 subsidies, occupancy and vacancy rates, waiting lists and accessibility  
30 features. In order to assist the department in the completion of the  
31 inventory, all owners of such housing units, both public and private,  
32 shall report accessible housing units to the database established and  
33 maintained under section 8-119x of the general statutes.

34       Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2006, the  
35 Department of Economic and Community Development shall submit a  
36 report to the Legislative Program Review and Investigations  
37 Committee, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
38 concerning the progress it has made:

39       (1) In conjunction with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority,  
40 revising and updating of the operating manual for state-funded elderly  
41 and disabled housing programs, including developing of a policy  
42 about and documentation of negative incidents and the creating and  
43 maintaining of waiting lists, and including the development of  
44 guidelines in consultation with the state Commission on Human  
45 Rights and Opportunities for tenant selection and suitability in  
46 accordance with all relevant state and federal laws;

47       (2) In conjunction with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority,  
48 consulting with the Connecticut housing court specialists and the  
49 Connecticut association of housing authorities concerning developing  
50 possible training seminars or materials on eviction proceedings for

51 local housing authorities;

52 (3) Reinstating training for local housing authorities regarding state  
53 affirmative fair housing requirements, including, but not limited to,  
54 the use, maintenance and selection from waiting lists;

55 (4) Requiring plans of local housing authorities for safety and  
56 security measures to be part of the required management plans  
57 submitted annually for review, and encouraging housing authorities to  
58 establish rapport with local police departments outlining respective  
59 roles and responsibilities in responding to negative incidents;

60 (5) In consultation with the Departments of Mental Health and  
61 Addiction Services, Social Services and Mental Retardation,  
62 reassessing the job description and accompanying qualifications for  
63 resident service coordinators to reflect the services needed by all  
64 groups residing in state-funded elderly and disabled housing and  
65 establishing the number of hours and salary rates reflecting the level of  
66 skills and qualifications needed to adequately service such housing  
67 population;

68 (6) Enlisting professionals from mental health and other service  
69 agencies to train resident service coordinators and housing authority  
70 staff to better understand the needs of elderly residents as well as  
71 persons with disabilities and related problems; and

72 (7) Creating a single state-wide manager position for the resident  
73 service coordinator program, who shall, at a minimum, (A) assist in  
74 measuring housing authority interest to reopen availability of the  
75 resident service coordinator grants, (B) revise the content and format  
76 of the existing resident service coordinator reporting requirements, (C)  
77 periodically monitor the activities of resident service coordinators  
78 through a review of the newly revised reporting instrument, (D)  
79 provide technical assistance and guidance to the resident service  
80 coordinators in their roles and responsibilities, including, but not  
81 limited to, the assessment of resident needs, (E) evaluate the training  
82 needs of the currently employed resident service coordinators and

83 arrange ongoing training for all resident service coordinators as  
84 needed, (F) act as a liaison between resident service coordinators and  
85 the social service agencies to further collaboration efforts as well as  
86 develop opportunities for resident education and awareness of  
87 disabilities, and (G) prepare and maintain a resource guide, including,  
88 but not limited to, identifying contact information and available  
89 services from the potential social service agencies across the state.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |  |  |
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| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2    | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3    | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4    | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

**PRI**        *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**PD**        *Joint Favorable*

**PH**        *Joint Favorable*

**LM**        *Joint Favorable*

**APP**       *Joint Favorable*